

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the following paragraph beginning on p. 22 line 7 and concluding on p. 23 line 2 as follows:

This invention is also related to the method of preventing fluorescence quenching. It is known that cyanine dyes generally form aggregates in aqueous media, leading to fluorescence quenching. Where the presence of a hydrophobic core in the dyes leads to fluorescence quenching, the addition of a biocompatible organic solvent, such as 1-50% dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) for example, restored fluorescence by preventing aggregation and allowed *in vivo* organ visualization. Large fluorescence enhancement of dyes have been observed under the condition where the dye is encapsulated in, i.e. forms an inclusion complex with, cyclodextrins (W.R. Bergmark et al., Dramatic fluorescence effects for coumarin laser dyes coincided with organic solvents in cyclodextrins. *J. Phys. Chem.*, 1990, 94, 5020[[8]]-5022). However, *in vivo* fluorescence enhancement of dyes coinjected with biocompatible organic solvents has not been previously described. Suitable organic solvent include, but are not limited to dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO), ethyl alcohol, isopropyl alcohol, glycerol, and other biocompatible polyols such as sorbitol, mannitol, xylitol, lactitol, erythritol, polydextrose, sucrose, fructose, maltose, hydrogenated starch hydrolysate (HSH), isomalt (palitinit), polyglycerol, hyperbranched polyglycerol, acetylated polyols, maltodextrine, cyclodextrine, dianhydrosorbitol, starches, polysaccharides, etc. as known to one skilled in the art.